

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

Meeting

Wm. F. Powers Building Conference Room B, One Capitol Hill

Providence, RI 02903

Monday, December 21, 2009

MINUTES

Members Present: Chair, Mark McKenney, presiding, Ed Garcia, Phyllis Humphrey, Shirley Long, Alison Peirce, Carol Terry and Thomas Viall.

Members Absent: Kristin Chin, Regina Connor, Ken Findlay, Bart Hollingsworth, Joan Ress Reeves, Joan Retsinas, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Mary Ann Slocumb, Ruth Sullivan,

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS):
Howard Boksenbaum, Donna DiMichele, Karen Mellor, Chaichin Chen,

Observers: Al Arsenault, Johnston Public Library

Reporting: Howard Boksenbaum with help from Donna DiMichele

Materials Distributed: Agenda, report on Protecting the Past – RI, Announcement of OLIS grant application for Protecting the Past – RI, part 2, Relais Returnables and Non-returnables flow charts, State of

Rhode Island Office of Personnel Administration 2010 Calendar

The meeting was convened at 4:27 PM by Chair, Mark McKenney.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair McKenney remarked on the absence of minutes from the previous meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous meeting are not yet available due to OLIS staff shortage, especially the absence of Board secretary Debbie Cullerton

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – MARK MCKENNEY

There was no report from the chair

IV. CHIEF LIBRARY OFFICER'S REPORT - HOWARD BOKSENBAUM

A. 2011 state budget

OLIS has submitted to the Department of Administration a budget request including

- 1. level funding of grants-in-aid to municipalities for public library service**
- 2. construction reimbursement funding at obligated level, which will equal a slight decrease from FY2010 due to early conclusion of payments to Portsmouth and variability in interest rates.**
- 3. level funding of grants to institutions and SRRC.**

4. no mention of the maintenance of effort (MOE), which will allow the reduction to 80% of the prior year to expire, returning the MOE requirement to 100% of the prior year's funding.
5. OLIS operating budget increased by approximately 5% to accommodate staff cost increases.

The Budget Office has agreed to date to pass that request on to the Governor despite projections of a state budget deficit next year of over \$400 million.

B. LSTA

LSTA funds available in state FY2011 are from our federal FY2010 allotment, for which we received the maintenance of effort waiver from IMLS and which continues the increase sponsored by Senator Reed that, completing the base rate, was a substantial increase for us small states. The added federal funds will be able to fill any lacunae that might result from state budget rescissions, and may turn out to be sufficient for OLIS to once again offer subgrants to local libraries. Stay tuned.

We will this year once again need to apply for a maintenance of effort waiver from IMLS to receive our full allotment in federal FY2012.

C. Current FY2010

The added federal funding and the freeze on such expenditures as hiring and state travel left OLIS with sufficient LSTA funds to

continue progress toward the goals of LibFutures through LSTA subgrants.

1. \$35,000 to RILINK to continue progress toward one catalog by adding up to 10 new school libraries to RICAT.

2. \$40,000 to RIFLI to continue progress in Lifelong Learning by continuing family literacy programs in Pawtucket.

3. in the works is a supplemental grant to the Providence Public Library in its role as SRRC to expand offerings of AskRI. As selected by a committee of representatives from OSL, RILINK and HELIN.

4. also in the works, \$5,000 to United Way of SE New England for a study of the feasibility of creating a National Library of Medicine GoLocal for Rhode Island. United Way and the New England Region of the national Network of Libraries of Medicine will assist in funding the study.

5. also in the works, \$5,000 to supplement a grant from the National Library of Medicine jointly to Lifespan, Inc. libraries and OLIS to train senior citizens and staff of senior centers in health literacy. The extension will add training for librarians in providing health information to seniors.

D. Protecting the Past – RI (see handouts)

Donna DiMichele reported on the just-completed IMLS Connecting to Collections planning grant to OLIS of \$40,000 for Protecting the Past – RI. This project convened a steering committee of representatives of libraries, archives, museums, town clerks and other institutions that hold collections of heritage materials in RI. Together they

adapted the Northeast Document Conservation Center's dPlan preservation and disaster planning tool to the RI circumstance and trained 135 individuals from 85 cultural heritage holding institutions in its use. Protecting the Past – RI was awarded a Rhody Award for Stewardship by the RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission and Preserve RI. Building on such a successful beginning, OLIS has applied to IMLS for an additional \$250,000 in an implementation grant to extend RI dPlan and the training in its use and create a Coordinated Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee to ensure both its continuation and its integration into RI emergency management process and procedure. RI State Archives, RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, Preserve RI, RI Emergency Management Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 1 and the RI Risk Management Office are partners in this new endeavor.

On a related note, proposals for reauthorization of LSTA would create a new section of the law recognizing public libraries as “information first responders” and enable payment to libraries for their participation in recovery processes.

E. Relais (rēlā)

Chaichin Chen, who is managing development of Relais implementation in RI from OLIS reported on progress. A major goal of LibFutures was the creation of “One Catalog,” a single catalog comprising all of RI's library holdings. Relais is a computer program

that will “sit on top of” the computerized turnkey (catalog, circulation, etc.) systems in our library consortia and let them talk to each other using an International Standards Organization standard known as Z39.50, thereby enabling a giant step in the direction of One Catalog. At first, Relais will simply allow librarians to search Ocean State Libraries, HELIN and RILINK catalogs simultaneously for a given item, request it as an interlibrary loan and track the request’s progress. Ultimately, it could be expanded to allow patrons of all 200 LORI member libraries to request an item from any of the 200 LORI member libraries and have it arrive on their doorstep (or at least at their local library) as soon as a delivery mechanism can get it there. Currently, 10 libraries are working with a rendition of Relais customized for the LORI network to get the bugs out and make sure it works right. Thereafter, those pilot libraries will train users in all of the other LORI libraries.

F. Ocean State Libraries new nonmember policy

OLIS participated in Ocean State Libraries’ (OSL) deliberation in creation of a new OSL policy regarding patrons from non-OSL communities. Howard and Ed Garcia reported that beginning with the new year, a full service library card from an OSL member library will cost people who are not members of that library’s community \$115/year. Libraries may issue ‘local use only’ cards giving privileges only at the one local institution and not all of the OSL consortium at lower fees. This will apply to out-of-state residents as well as to residents of RI municipalities that have no library or have no libraries

that are members of OSL. Currently, all public libraries in the state, including all cities and towns, are members of OSL. The \$115.00 fee is based on the average municipal tax contribution per capita in RI. OSL's concern is that the current economic difficulties may lead to cuts in some local library budgets deep enough to cause them to close. That would require implementation of this policy to protect those communities continue adequate funding to their libraries from being overwhelmed with newly librariless patrons.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Public Relations Committee – Ed Garcia no report

B. Legislation Committee – Rose Ellen Reynolds no report

C. Ad Hoc Committee to Consider Consequences of Cuts Mark McKenney reported on behalf of Joan Ress Reeves the Committee is working on compiling information to backup the case for continued and/or enhanced support of OLIS that will be a ready resource to bring before the legislature. Kris Chin prepared just such a document as a fund-raising letter for the Libraries of Foster, which Howard was asked to distribute to the Board.

D. Ad Hoc Logistics Committee – Tom Viall The Committee's final report is currently being edited and is expected to be presentable at January's meeting.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Phyllis Humphrey reported that the SKILLS ACT amendment to the No Child Left Behind Act that recognizes School Library Media Specialists has been introduced as HR3928 in the (US) House of Representatives, and needs support.

VII. NEW BUSINESS none

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Al Arsenault reported that the Town of Johnston has asked the library to pay its own insurance for events in the library, as the Interlocal Trust, Johnston's insurer requires the additional insurance. Howard responded that Jon Anderson, Johnston librarian has asked him to look into the matter. Howard will meet with State Risk Manager Kevin Carvalho to investigate.

IX. FUTURE MEETINGS:

Next meeting will be January 25, 2010 at 4:45pm in the Wm. F. Powers Building Conference Room B, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02903

X. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.